Legislation for regulation of food products

600. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to converge and modernise the existing laws of food processing and bring out a single statute for regulation of food products;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Group of ministers has been constituted for this purpose; and

(d) if so, when the Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted by the Government to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a Modern Integrated Food Law and related regulations by converging and modernizing the existing laws and to bring about a single statute for regulation of food products. This law is expected to take into account the international scenario and modern developments so as to create an enabling environment and promote self-compliance by the food processing industries. Two meetings of the Group of Ministers (GOM) have been held so far.

Maintaining quality of food and drinks

601. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news report in June, 2003 that a dead lizard was found in coca-cola's coke bottle in Chennai;

(b) the steps taken by Government to maintain hygiene and quality in fast food and soft drinks that are fast spreading to the rural areas; and

(c) whether Government would bring a legislation to deal with multinational companies that fail to maintain the quality in food and drinks according to guidelines?